

RESEARCH GRANTS

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, someone over here said that we should research our questions a little more. I have a long disgusting list of Liberal research grants at my disposal.

My question is for the Minister of Finance who is making great sport of assuring the Canadian people in foreign money markets that his government is serious about fiscal responsibility.

Is he aware that the Ministry of Industry recently approved a grant of \$33,800 for the study of major league baseball in Detroit: "The Detroit Tigers, 1945 to 1992"? Can he explain to beleaguered taxpayers how spending their money like this is more important than lowering taxes?

Hon. Jon Gerrard (Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is referring to grants under the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, an independent arm's length body that has done a great service to university researchers and has provided a very important foundation for knowledge in the country.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, have we changed finance ministers in this government?

Perhaps the question was not fair to the finance minister so I will give him another opportunity to explain it. If he feels it is too tough, perhaps he could explain the \$13,000 grant given by the Ministry of Industry to study "Yankee Seamen: A Mariners' History of Massachusetts".

• (1445)

Will this be useful to Canadian industry or is the government researching what happened the last time the people revolted against unfair taxation in Boston harbour?

Hon. Jon Gerrard (Secretary of State (Science, Research and Development), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate. The Reform Party has singled out individual components of what has been an extraordinary effort over a long period of time for the culture of this country supporting efforts in the universities, supporting the development of knowledge which has made a major contribution to the economy and to the well-being of Canadians.

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[Translation]

STATUS OF WOMEN

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

Oral Questions

According to persistent rumours, the next budget will reduce government funding for women's groups, which is causing concern among many women's groups, including the Fédération des femmes du Québec.

Does the Minister of Finance intend to continue the policy of the previous federal government by once again reducing government funding for community agencies that help women?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Québec, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as I said repeatedly, I do not intend to release the contents of the budget, in this House or elsewhere, before the appointed time.

However, I can assure the hon. member that the next budget will be very fair and that we are fully aware of the need to deal fairly with women's needs.

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, I would nevertheless like to warn the minister about the impact of such cuts.

Does the Minister of Finance realize that by cutting funding to these groups he will put their survival in jeopardy, when these agencies play a unique role in promoting women's rights and improving their living conditions?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Québec, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I can inform the hon. member that yes, we do realize that. We made that clear in the last budget, and we will do so again in the next one.

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[English]

WHITE PAPER ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain (Guelph—Wellington, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, yesterday some Liberal colleagues and I talked about the future of the white paper on financial institutions.

I wonder if the secretary of state could give us an idea of when this paper will be released. This was extremely important for many people in my community who have a great interest in this particular issue.

Hon. Douglas Peters (Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for her question.

I will be tabling a set of proposals, a white paper, on extending the safety and security of Canada's financial institutions. I will be doing so tomorrow.

The proposal is the result of some major consultations with the Department of Finance and others. On tabling the proposals I will be asking Canadians, those institutions that are affected and